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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ASCENT HELPS EP LABS TO FURTHER REDUCE WASTE, CUT COSTS WITH
NEW PRODUCT ADDITION**

*EZ STEER™ Bi-Directional Catheters are now available for reprocessing through
Ascent programs*

PHOENIX, Ariz. – June 3, 2010 – Ascent, a leader in delivering healthcare resource sustainability, today announced the addition of a new product to its extensive roster of single use devices (SUDs) for reprocessing. EZ STEER™ Bi-Directional Catheters, manufactured by Biosense Webster, are now available for reprocessing through Ascent programs. The availability of this device enables electrophysiology (EP) labs to save money and reduce waste, saving up to 50 percent of the cost of the original device while diverting SUDs from landfills.

EZ STEER Bi-Directional Catheters are 4 mm, and are indicated for catheter-based atrial and ventricular electrophysiological mapping procedures to treat arrhythmias. Easy to use and operate, the bi-directional design provides two curves in one catheter for economic and procedural versatility.

“Ascent is a true partner that is always bringing new products to market that provides tremendous cost savings to the hospital,” said Colin Vaughn, RN and clinical coordinator of the Cardiac Cath Lab at Mountain Vista Medical Center in Mesa, Ariz. “We are pleased with this addition and will continue to look forward to other opportunities in the future.”

Reprocessing of SUDs is currently employed by close to 50 percent of U.S. hospitals. As

the largest reprocessing company in the U.S., Ascent has reprocessing programs in place at more than 1,800 hospitals and hospital systems across the country. By partnering with hospitals and healthcare facilities to provide SUD reprocessing programs, Ascent not only delivers clear savings to its customers, but also shows its continued leadership in bringing sustainability to healthcare.

“At Ascent, our team of engineers and medical professionals strives to continually research and identify devices that can be safely reprocessed,” said Rick Ferreira, President of Ascent. “As manufacturers change their designs and technologies to make devices and catheters more precise and versatile, Ascent continues to prove its leadership by finding ways to safely re-manufacture these devices. Becoming the first in the industry to gain clearance to reprocess the EZ STEER line of bi-directional catheters provides another good solution for our EP lab customers.”

ABOUT ASCENT: A STRYKER SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTION

Ascent, a division of Stryker Corporation, is the leading provider of reprocessing (cleaning, testing/verifying, packaging and sterilizing) and remanufacturing (disassembling, repairing and manufacturing) services for medical devices as well as comprehensive recycling and redistribution initiatives. Stryker is the only global OEM to offer innovative, cost-effective sustainability solutions, like Ascent’s reprocessing and remanufacturing programs, to help meet the demands of its hospital partners. Specifically, Ascent’s programs target inefficient practices and reclaim and redirect consumable and financial resources in order to promote healthy and responsible hospitals. Ascent’s customers include most of the “Honor Roll” hospitals recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*. For more information about Ascent, visit www.ascenths.com.

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